

Australia Post Gives Stamps the Thumbs Up

Starting September 2 Australia Post is featuring five beautiful private gardens from Open Gardens Australia in a new stamp issue.

Australia Post Philatelic Manager, Michael Zsolt said: "The new stamp issue depicting gardens from across the country, celebrates the wonderful work of Open Gardens Australia. We trust it will appeal to both collectors and gardening enthusiasts alike."

Open Gardens Australia CEO, Liz White said: "We are thrilled Australia Post is recognising Open Gardens Australia through a stamp issue that highlights some of the wonderful and diverse examples of the gardens we include in our annual programs. As a not-for-profit organisation that operates with the support of thousands of volunteers, our aim is to promote the enjoyment, knowledge and benefits of gardens and gardening, and to build strong community support for garden development."

Open Gardens Australia began life as Victoria's Gardens Scheme in 1987, broadening to become a national program in 2000. Since the organisation's beginning, it has showcased some 10,000 gardens, and today opens around 500 new private gardens to the public each season. It is estimated that around 200,000 adults visit the gardens annually, accompanied by countless children.

The gardens featured on the stamps are:

- Cruden Farm, Victoria. The late Dame Elisabeth Murdoch established the historic garden within a working farm more than 80 years ago, engaging, among others, renowned landscape designer Edna Walling. It is a founding garden in Open Gardens Australia.

- Mendel Garden, Western Australia. Award-winning landscape designer Janine Mendel developed this wonderful urban garden, which comprises three courtyards, with the stamp showing the lush, subtropical entry courtyard.



- Niwajiri, South Australia. Steve Hailstone developed Niwajiri in the Adelaide Hills in the late 1980s. Displaying European, Japanese and Australian influences, Niwajiri has been meticulously planned and planted.



- Walcott Garden, ACT. First developed in 1926 and redesigned by Helen Cohen in 2003, this water-wise garden reflects the vision of its owners, focusing on native plant species, textured foliage and an informal landscape design.

- Wychwood, Tasmania. This is a superbly designed contemporary cool-climate garden among the rolling hills of northern Tasmania. A focal point in the tranquil garden is a seven-ring classical labyrinth, created through careful grass mowing.



The Open Gardens Australia stamps are designed by Simone Sakinofsky of Australia Post Design Studio, using photographs by Ben Wrigley (Cruden Farm), Steve Hailstone (Niwajiri), Janine Mendel (Mendel Garden), Ben Walcott (Walcott Garden) and Simon Griffiths (Wychwood).

There are five domestic base rate (70c) stamps and products associated with this stamp issue include; a first day cover, stamp pack, maxicard set of five, booklet of 20 x 70c self-adhesive stamps, postcard booklet and a prestige cover.

The Open Gardens Australia stamp issue is available from September 2, 2014 at www.auspost.com.au/stamps or contact Australia Stamp Agency in North America toll free (USA and Canada) on 1-800-443-4225 while stocks last.